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Application No. 10/540,354
Reply to Office Action of July 25, 2007

Docket No.: 209546-98123

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a work piece by using in-mold coating and melt compression molding, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a low-pressure mold tool including a first half and a second half, wherein one of the first and second halves includes a runner that terminates at a gate, wherein the low pressure mold tool defines a cavity;

introducing an in-mold coating comprising a water-based or a solvent-based paint onto one of the [[a]] first and second mold halves half of a mold tool;

introducing through the runner and out of the gate a work piece material onto said cavity a second mold half of the mold tool, wherein the work piece material includes having a temperature at or above a temperature at which at least a portion of the work piece material is in a molten state;

closing the mold tool;

bonding the in-mold coating with the work piece material and forming a work piece including an integral class "A" surface, wherein the class "A" surface is defined by the in-mold coating; and

opening the low pressure mold tool and removing the work piece after the work piece material has at least partially cooled, wherein the above steps are conducted in one cycling operation.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a work piece according to Claim 1, wherein the in-mold coating is introduced by spraying the in-mold coating onto one of the first and second mold halves [[half]].

3. (Original) A method for manufacturing a work piece according to Claim 1, wherein the work piece material comprises a thermoplastic resin material.

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4. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a work piece according to Claim 3, wherein the work piece material comprises Polypropylene (PP), Acrylnitril-Butadiene-Styrene-Copolymer (ABS), Polycarbonate-Acrylnitril-Butadien-Styrol-Copolymer (PC/ABS), or Thermoplastic Olefin (TPO) material.

5. (Original) A method for manufacturing a work piece according to Claim 1, wherein the work piece material includes fillers, reinforcement glass or reinforcement natural fibers.

6. (Original) A method for manufacturing a work piece according to Claim 1, further including the step of introducing a mold release onto one of the first or second mold tool halves.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a work piece according to Claim 1, wherein the closed mold tool exerts a pressure of approximately 0.5 to 2.0 tons per square inch.

10. (New) A method for manufacturing a work piece according to Claim 1, wherein, prior to the introducing an in-mold coating step, further including the step of formulating the in-mold coating to include a mold release agent.

11. (New) A method for manufacturing a work piece according to Claim 2, wherein the spraying of the in-mold coating further comprises the step of airlessly atomizing the in-mold coating.

12. (New) A method for manufacturing a work piece according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of

masking said work piece by

spraying a second in-mold coating different from said first in-mold coating onto said one of the first and second mold halves.